



# The Oceanography Report



By Alan E. Jennings

The Oceanography Report  
The first front page of physical, chemical, geological, and biological oceanographers.

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## NOAA's Service to Research

John V. Byrne

*Ed. Note: The following text is excerpted from the author's remarks delivered at the AGU Ocean Sciences Meeting, New Orleans, La., January 1984.*

I want to discuss two of the major areas of effort in which NOAA is engaged—service and science. There is a third area, management, where we have responsibilities for managing fisheries, marine and estuarine sanctuaries, and so on. But that is not the focus of my remarks today. I want instead to concentrate on NOAA's primary responsibility, service, and on some areas of NOAA research that underpin our service functions.

All scientists know the difficulty of keeping abreast of developments in our own disciplines. But beyond that, there is always the intriguing possibility that we can draw new ideas, methods, or technologies from other disciplines, and apply them to our own research. When we see what other kinds of research are being pursued—what the links might be with our own work—we can sometimes solve problems larger, and often more vital, than those we were initially addressing.

This type of linkage is particularly important to NOAA because of our responsibility to provide service involving the ocean, the atmosphere, and even space. (We have the responsibility of monitoring solar flares as well as operating remote sensing satellites.)

The architects of our agency must have recognized that the understanding of the ocean, its resources, and its interactions with mankind lay in better understanding of oceanography, meteorology, marine biology, economics, and human behavior—and all lie linkages among all of them.

### Service

Among our services to the ocean community, we are proud of those offered by the National Geophysical Data Center in Boulder, Colorado. It has a couple of groups that you should find helpful—one for geology and geophysics, and another—under contract with the University of Colorado—for glaciology. They are looking toward some interesting new projects.

One of the previous stems from President Reagan's March 10, 1983 proclamation of a U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). It established U.S. jurisdiction over all resources in and below the ocean out to the 200-mile limit previously established by the Fishery Conservation and Management Act and opened up great possibilities—ultimately for economic development and more immediately for scientific exploration.

NOAA and the U.S. Geological Survey are jointly planning a cooperative survey of appropriate areas in the EEZ using the Seabeam system on the NOAA ship *Surveyor*, and perhaps another ship, to come up with the necessary map. This is truly an interagency and interdisciplinary effort, designed to take full advantage of the possibilities opened up by the President's proclamation. In addition, NOAA will focus on the physical, chemical, and biological aspects of those parts of the ocean. I should also say that we have two excellent seafloor systems for high-resolution, multibeam swath surveys, and we are working closely with USGS and other interested parties in planning joint use of both of them.

The Seabeam system is a deep water system. It is used in water depths greater than 100 m, with swath widths of 0.8 times the water depth. In addition, we have a Bathymetric Seismic Survey System—BSS. It is on the NOAA ship *Surveyor* and is used in shallower waters.

(depths of about 10 to 600 m), with a swath width of 2.5 times the water depth. To the best of my knowledge, the BSS system is unique.

Scientists from our National Ocean Service are working with USGS scientists to plan multibeam swath surveys of appropriate areas of the EEZ, sharing the funding and cooperating in data processing and delivery formats for the data. And their colleagues from our National Geophysical Data Center are also working with the USGS on an implementation plan for distributing the bathymetric information obtained from these cruises.

Of course, we also operate the National Oceanographic Data Center. I know most of you are familiar with it. If you are not well acquainted with its products and services, you'll find an exhibit and some helpful people here at this meeting.

Among NOAA's most important service responsibilities in the oceans are those providing for safe and efficient coast and marine operations. In addition to the many routine services that we offer—nautical charts, tide tables, and the like—we are working toward some new and very unusual products. They'll blend advanced technology and management techniques with traditional data presentation to provide much more up-to-date, and consequently more accurate, operational information in numerous critical areas.

One of these areas is port operations. We live in a high tech world of electronic computers, earth satellites and space shuttles, and communications of astonishing sophistication. But some areas, such as port operations, have remained essentially low tech.

Ships have radio, radar, and depth finders, it is true. But they are still dependent upon charts that give retrospective rather than actual data, tide tables that give predictive rather than actual data, nautical charts of oceans and atmosphere, but all of it is related to our missions of service. There are a number of areas closely related to your interests.

I notice that your program included a full day session yesterday on El Niño, and another Friday on the Southern Ocean, which I might conjecture bears some relationship to El Niño. NOAA has of course monitored and conducted a great deal of research on that phenomenon—as you might expect, because of what it will tell us about long-range climate effects. But we have other interests, in quite different fields. Linkages.

We have economists, in our Assessment and Information Services Center. They are most interested in the economic effects of El Niño. And biologists. Let me tell you about their interests.

It's beginning with systems to provide real time and water level information to ships entering and leaving harbors. To these will be added data on tides, waves, and weather, and possibly ice information in northern latitudes.

We are also considering implementation of electronic display of digital nautical chart information. Chart information can be transmitted via telephone wire, or telemetry, or distributed in cassettes for display on cathode ray tubes aboard ship. Ultimately, perhaps, we will have an entirely electronic bridge, comparable to the instrument display in front of an airline pilot as he sits down to land.

The growth of polar pack is tracked both to the ambient air temperature and the strength of winds that deform the ice and control the amount of open leads and distribution of ice thickness. This coupled ice-ocean model will be carefully tested with the view of including it in a fully coupled global climate model.

One of GFDL's most important efforts is the study of climate variability by means of these coupled ocean-atmosphere mathematical models. The lab has recently completed an investigation of the transient response of climate to an increase of atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub>. What they found was that the surface air temperature over continents respond more quickly to an increase in CO<sub>2</sub> levels than does the corresponding surface temperature of the oceans, with their large thermal inertia.

NOAA is studying the oceans in many ways. From modeling to physical oceanography to biology. NOAA scientists are also going to be carrying on investigations of subsea geology, both within and outside the EEZ. This will follow up previous research on polymetallic sulfides and seafloor spreading. We already mentioned the Seabeam work of Scripps.

The meteorologists found that the position of the storm stream each year has a profound effect on storm tracks in the Bering Sea—sending them far up north, or along a southern path, which influences the extent of the ice pack.

The meteorologists found that this wind-driven system also greatly influences ocean circulation.

The fishery biologists knew that king crabs release their eggs at the bottom, and that these float to the top as larvae and then, as juveniles, take about eight years to grow to the size where they enter the fishery. The juveniles feed on the large planktonic bloom that is normally found in the relatively untroubled warm top layer of the water.

As a multidisciplinary team, the three found that when storms hit the area, the water is thoroughly mixed, the normal large crabs have to search much further for food—which increases their exposure to predators. The biologists also think that the colder, more saline water is less conducive crab growth, but they don't yet know which characteristics, or combination of characteristics, is most important.

Enter El Niño.

Through the process known as teleconnection, effects of the southern oscillation that causes El Niño are transmitted to the northern hemisphere, bringing about a strong westerly flow at lower latitudes than normal. The semi-permanent low in the Gulf of Alaska is strengthened, leading to more intense disturbances whose effects are again transmitted to the ocean.

This is, of course, the change in storm paths that influence the extent of the ice pack, as I have mentioned.

The economic implications of this are tremendous. If we can know enough about these fluctuations to model them, we can predict them—far enough in advance, we hope, so that some day we will be able to give the king crab fisherman adequate warning to modify their boats to hunt another species during a season or so. All because, eight or nine years previously, the jet stream didn't follow its normal course [Ed. And this of course stimulates further inquiry. The conditions that may cause a decrease in the stock

of king crab may be just right to cause an increase in other species. What species? If this hypothesis turns out to be true, and if we could find out the species, then we could also advise the fisherman, so they'd know best to tie their boats.

We do know that last year's Southern Ocean El Niño resulted in movement of many species northward, including yellowtail, bonito, and barracuda.

From February to April of last year, barracuda were caught in Monterey Bay, 60 miles north of San Francisco, and two tropical species—purple snapper and Pacific bonito—were found farther north than ever before observed.

We are continuing our studies of this problem, trying to take full advantage of all the linkages among various disciplines to address the problem of recruitment—which we are beginning to recognize as critical to the health of fish stocks. It is an area where physical scientists have much to contribute.

With respect to the climatological aspects of El Niño, an international research project—TODA, for Tropical Ocean Global Atmosphere—is going to take place to explore the dynamics of the great oceanic mass exchange El Niño causes. It will be a divide-and-expedition. The International Project Office will be established in NOAA, and field operations are scheduled to begin about January of 1985.

Additional light is being shed on the whole phenomenon of El Niño through work at our Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory, which has developed a coupled ocean-atmosphere model that simulates the amplification of modest initial perturbations during El Niño-Southern Oscillation events. The model reproduces the simultaneous growth of perturbations in the atmosphere and ocean.

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It is being run by a nonprofit Foundation created especially for the purpose, and is being funded by donations from industry and other interested groups.

You will be hearing a great deal more about the Year of the Ocean in forthcoming weeks, as programs are put together at both national and local levels. I look forward to your active participation.

I have advertised to the EEZ a couple of

times in my remarks today, and I want to mention it once more in closing, to tell you of a forthcoming event that I hope you will join me in supporting. It is the Year of the Ocean, which will begin March 10—the anniversary of the EEZ proclamation.

The Year of the Ocean is designed to accomplish three goals—to expand public awareness and knowledge of the importance of the ocean and its resources, to promote a sense of stewardship for them, and to foster a public/private partnership for wise use and management of ocean resources.

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synoptic reports including shorelines stations and slips of opportunity: calculated winds, wind stress, wind stress curl, Ekman drift, meridional transport on a 1° grid, derived from surface pressure distribution the calculations follow the technique of Global Weather Dynamics, Inc., Monterey, Calif.; water level data from National Ocean Survey stations from Oregon to the Mexican border; and historical and current CALCOFI data for the along-shore region including Santa Barbara Channel to San Francisco and offshore of the survey lines (furnished by National Marine Fisheries-Southwest, Ronald Lynn.)

Close coordination between this program and the CALCOFI program has been assured by exchange of information on survey design and schedules. This is a CALCOFI year, and a major effort involving some seven surveys between January and September will establish the large-scale structure. Overlap of the two programs occurs in the nearshore region.

Further, increased effort by the CALCOFI vessel, *Jordan*, in the MMS area of interest during the March survey will fill the gap in the MMS survey schedule creating a uniform seasonal sampling pattern. Two or three of the nearshore CALCOFI stations on a number of lines will be occupied by boat parties promoting comparability of the two data sets.

The two programs take place in a time when the El Niño conditions may be in a declining state; thus the opportunity to capture the transition and through comparison of the observed state to historically observed conditions, gain an exciting insight into the nature of variability within the scale of the features observed.

The study encompasses a region extending about 50 km offshore, reaching from Point Conception to San Francisco. The field effort is more concentrated in the southern portion, between Point Conception and Point Bodega, a grid of hydro lines at 10 km intervals will have conductivity, temperature, and depth (CTD) stations at 20 km spacing with expendable bathythermograph (XBT) stations (NBBT's) at the midpoints to detail the mesoscale structure of the shelf waters. North of Bodega, the CTD spacing will continue at 20 km, and lines will coincide with historical CALCOFI lines. Surveys are scheduled for January, July, and October 1984 and January 1985.

The intense sampling in the southern portion will be repeated twice in an 8 day period, providing two "snapshots" of a region where the changes in flow structure appear to be caused by a number of dynamic events superposed on an eastward mean flow that varies seasonally.

Historically, studies have examined some parts of the region for description of the flow and the dynamic processes. B. M. Fleck (The California Current system: Hypothesis and facts, *Prog. Oceanogr.*, 8, 191-270, 1973) has summarized these. Recent studies reported by C. N. R. Mooers (Initial results of the OPUS experiments, paper presented at the EDCO Conference, Lake Arrowhead, Calif., 1983) have described early structure with interface geostrophic "jets." Lagrangian tracers, in studies reported by R. Davis (Results of drogue tracking during code experiments, paper presented at CALCOFI conference, Ilywile, Calif., 1983), have seemingly been caught in very high speed greater than 1 knot offshore surface flows described as "squirts." The name fits the high speed, narrow, limited extent (200 km) and duration (2 days) of the features as observed by the drogue experiments. Larger scale, more permanent, nearshore, high-speed currents are a regular feature of the region epitomized by the well known Davidson Current appearing in the winter months as a poleward flowing surface feature.

Eleven mooring locations (with vector averaging current meters in the near surface layers, Aanderaa meters below due to near surface wave activity, and bottom pressure sensors at five moorings) will be located through the area on lines coincident with hydro survey lines. Eighteen months of data from the moored instruments will provide observation of speed/direction, temperature, and conductivity that can be interpreted in conjunction with the hydrographic cross-sectional profiles.

Lagrangian surface drifting devices will be released during each hydro survey in two modes: (1) on standard lines along hydro-survey lines as a complement to the hydro and moored instrument data and (2) seeded in specific features that are identified from satellite imagery. Satellite imagery and digital surface temperature will be acquired daily on a regular and continuing basis during the 18 month field program for the overview analysis of the surface dynamics. During tracking studies, the imagery will be analyzed in near real time to furnish direction to the seeding and tracking aircraft.

With luck, the data from the hydrographic survey, the moored instruments, and the tracking efforts will combine to provide a detailed description, in space and time of the dynamic events in the intensively measured region. Additional data to be acquired as part of the study will include hourly winds, temperature, pressure, relative humidity, and diurnal wave spectra from the NDBC buoys (furnished by Global Weather Dynamics, Inc., Monterey, Calif.); hourly winds, temperature, and pressure from nearly 20 near-coastal weather reporting stations (from Global Weather Dynamics, Inc., Monterey, Calif.);

Awardee selection will be made by the AGU Education and Human Resources Committee in consultation with the AGU Atmospheric Sciences Section.

For application forms contact:  
American Geophysical Union

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Replies to ads with box numbers should be addressed to Box 2000, American Geophysical Union, 2000 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20009.

For more information, call 202-462-6900 or toll-free 800-424-2488.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**Statistical/Water Resource Research.** Excellent opportunity with Wyoming Water Research Center and Department of Statistics at the University of Wyoming, to perform statistical/mathematical research, consult on parametric and stochastic hydrology, interpret geophysical data, and teach linear algebra, including guidance of graduate student research. Requires a Ph.D. with demonstrated research ability in applied statistics, probability modeling and stochastic processes related to water problems. Mathematical and computer applications, i.e., simulation and programming, as well as prior consulting experience are preferred. Ten tenure track positions are available. Send resume and names of three references to: Dr. William A. Nagy, NOA/National Climatic Program Office, Room 108, Rockwell Building, 1440 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852. Telephone # 301-433-8030.

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**University of Denver/Research Positions in Space Plasma Theory.** The Department of Physics invites applications for two postdoctoral research positions in plasma physics research group beginning July 1, 1984.

**Postdoctoral Research Associate:** The applicant must have a Ph.D. in plasma theory with strong background in kinetic theory, non-linear waves and applied instabilities. Some experience in beam plasma instabilities is preferable. Familiarity with space plasma and field observations and use of CRAY-1 is useful. The position is available for June graduation or someone with one/two years' postdoctoral experience.

**Assistant Research Professor:** The applicant must have a Ph.D. in plasma theory with strong basic knowledge in kinetic theory, plasma instabilities, numerical methods, possible simulation techniques. Experience with space plasma and field data useful but not required. Successful research experience of three years beyond Ph.D. is required. This is a regular tenure research position on a continuing basis dependent on annual review. Send resume and three letters of recommendation to: Dr. Michael J. Luhmann, Department of Physics, University of Denver, 2200 Chaffee Boulevard, Denver, CO 80208. For more information, call 303-587-2488.

For more information, call 202-462-6900 or toll-free 800-424-2488.

Territory of the Pacific Islands, at other appointed nonprofit organizations throughout a State or local government, may be a permanent, career civil service organization for at least 90 days prior to entering into a mobility assignment agreement with a Federal agency. Period of service is one year beginning October 1, 1984 with the option of a second year if mutually desirable.

The duties of this position are to review and help develop National and international climate program plans, and in program development, and overseeing NCEP projects and advise in implementing related activities of the United States in bilateral projects and the World Climate Program. Project Camilleau is sought with the following qualifications: (1) Ph.D. in meteorology or physical oceanography; (2) Experience in preparing and reviewing research plans; (3) Knowledge of a number of national Climate Programs (NCEP, WCR, World Climate Program, WCRP); (4) Familiarity with applications of satellite data and technology to climate prediction and with climate modeling; (5) Ability to communicate ideas through writing and oral presentations.

The NCO under the IPA will negotiate salary, benefits and travel with the selected cooperating institution. A resume, three references and a statement with career and qualifications.

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**Faculty Position in Structural Geology/Tectonics.**

The Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, North Carolina State University, has an opening for an Assistant Professor level, in the area of structural geology and tectonics. We will fill this position with either a tenure track or temporary appointment beginning with the Fall 1984 term. For the temporary appointment ranks higher than Assistant could be considered. A Ph.D. is required.

The selected applicant will be expected to teach courses in structural geology, structural analysis, tectonics, and/or other areas of research interest. The tenure track applicant will be expected to develop a vigorous program of sponsored research and to direct graduate student projects.

The MEAS Department currently has 31 full-time faculty, including 12 geologists and geophysicists. The Department is complete research facilities of its own, including the E.E. Sulkin Seismograph Committee Chairman, Department of MEAS, NC State University, Raleigh, NC 27605-8208; telephone 919-571-2210. Applications will be considered as received, with a closing date of Mar 1, 1984. North Carolina State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

**Applied Science Associate.** Applied Science Associates, Inc. (ASA) is consulting in ocean engineering and sciences, specializing in numerical modeling of ship motion, wave propagation, and related problems. ASA is seeking to hire a research engineer with a rapidly growing staff. Applicants with research interests in numerical modeling of oil spill fate and impact, ecosystem dynamics, marine and ground water hydrodynamics and pollutants transport, sediment transport, and wave dynamics, as well as particular interest in the ability to generate a cost-effective research program, and the names of three referees.

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## Geophysicist Earth Science Department

The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory is an R&D facility operated by the University of California for the U.S. Department of Energy. Located in the San Francisco East Bay Area, the Lab employs 8,000 individuals engaged in challenging basic and applied R&D.

LLNL is now seeking a Geophysicist to join its Earth Science Department. The responsibilities of the position include the acquisition, processing and archiving of seismic data in support of senior seismologist in the areas of seismicity and strong motion monitoring. Additionally, you will do seismic data analysis including picking seismograms and locating earthquakes; run applications programs, such as location and inversion routines; read computer tapes of velocity formats; and supervise field data acquisition utilizing both digital and field techniques.

The candidate we are seeking will have a MS degree in seismology or geophysics or equivalent. Previous and RSX operating systems and microcomputer-based data acquisition systems experience is highly desirable.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory offers competitive salaries, a liberal benefits program including health, dental, broad-based retirement and up to 20% tax deferred annuity programs.

To apply for this position, please send your resume, in confidence to: Art Wong, Professional Employment Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, P.O. Box 5510, Dept. KES-434, Livermore, California, 94550.

U.S. Citizenship is required.  
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## NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

NSF's Division of Ocean Sciences is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Assistant/Associate Program Director for the Ocean Dynamics Program. The position is accepted from the noncompetitive civil service and will be filled on a one- or two-year rotational basis. The position salary ranges from \$30,000 to \$45,000 for the Assistant Program Director and \$35,000 to \$55,000 for the Associate Program Director. The Program provides support for research in physical oceanography. The incumbent is involved in program planning and budgeting, proposal evaluation, administration of research grants, and liaison with other Federal agencies. Applications should refer to Announcement No. E8-35 EOS which contains information on how to apply. A resume, three references and a statement of qualifications should be submitted by May 1, 1984 to:

Dr. William A. Nagy  
NOA/National Climatic Program Office  
Room 108, Rockwell Building  
1440 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
Telephone # 301-433-8030

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## Geophysical Fluid Dynamics/Aeronautical Research Associates of Princeton, Inc.

A Princeton-based Research Corporation has a challenging position in the Princeton Research Center in Geophysical Meteorology or Engineering with strong background in computational fluid dynamics. The successful candidate will have demonstrated expertise in at least two of the following areas: Modeling of Laminar, Wave, and Sediment Transport in Coastal, Estuarine, and Shallow Waters; Development and Application of Three-Dimensional Numerical Model of Coastal and Estuarine Flow; and Sediment Transport in Shallow Coastal and Estuarine Environments. We offer a creative work environment, excellent benefit package, and salary commensurate with experience. Send resume in complete confidence to Dr. David Schwartzman, Department of Geology/Geophysics, Howard University, Washington, DC 20059.

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## HORTON RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL

The American Geophysical Union is soliciting proposals for the Horton Research Grant. One grant, in the amount of \$5,500, is awarded annually in support of research projects in hydrology and water resources by a Ph.D. candidate in an American institution of higher education.

The objective of the grant is to foster graduate student research leading to the completion of doctoral dissertations. Proposals may be in hydrology, including physical, chemical or biological aspects, or in the water resources policy sciences, including economics, systems analysis, sociology and law.

The deadline for proposals for the 1984 grant is April 30.

For a detailed description of the grant and a guide for proposers, write or call:

**Horton Research Grant**  
Member Programs Department  
American Geophysical Union  
2000 Florida Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009  
202/462-6903

### Meetings (cont. from p. 133)

#### 13-15

##### Second Characteristics of Fjord Sedimentary Deposits on the Arctic Margin

PAULINE J. JAFFREZIC AND F. NAVILLE, GUYAN H. BOSING  
Department of Geological Sciences, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 97403

The shelf region off the Arctic margin contains a complete spectrum of depositional environments ranging from glaciogenic to fluvio-deltaic, fluvio-deltaic, and shelf settings. Data have been taken at 18 stations to characterize early diagenetic reactions and the sediment-water-solute exchange of carbonates and organic matter in these various subenvironments. There are distinct similarities in inter-shelf areas in that diagenetic reactions are sufficiently oxidizing that most of the organic matter is removed from the sediment-water interface and does not escape as such to overlying waters. Sediments are often enriched in organic matter, however, that can be mineralized rapidly. The most striking feature is the character of these deposits, which appear to be related to the shelf layer (0-100 m) deposited at least partially by bottom mixed tides. A 400 m thick section of the shelf margin is characterized by a high degree of biological activity in the upper 1-2 m and can be related to use of the sea as an electron acceptor. Dissolution will be reduced and subsequently high organic matter will be oxidized as a carrier there. These diagenetic reactions, a diagenetic environment with redox conditions in which decomposers dominate where  $\text{O}_2$  and  $\text{H}_2$  are abundant, will be reduced to  $\text{H}_2$  reduction. This is apparently due to the absence of reductants like sulfide rather than lack of reductive organic matter.

#### 15-16

##### INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOPS

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